

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 06009 012216Z

20

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SWF-02 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03 H-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

PM-07 DRC-01 EA-11 /197 W
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R 012120Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4429

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR VE CU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SALE OF VENEZUELAN RICE TO CUBA

1. CARACAS PRESS REPORTS THAT THE VENEZUELAN AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AGENCY, CORPOMERCADEO, WILL SELL 15,000 TONS OF RICE TO CUBA FOR 23,000 BOLIVARS, FOB, PUERTO CABELLO. FIRST SHIPMENT OF 7,500 TONS WILL REPORTEDLY LEAVE VENEZUELA THE LAST HALF OF JULY.

2. REPORTS ORIGINATING FROM THE FEDECAMARAS CONGRESS IN SAN CRISTOBAL STATE THAT "AN OFFICIAL BODY" ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE JUNE 27 STATING THAT "THE REESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS IMMINENT AS A RESULT OF THE SALE OF RICE WHICH CORPOMERCADEO WILL MAKE TO THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT." OTHER REPORTS STATE THAT THE VENEZUELAN CONTROLLER'S OFFICE HAS STIPULATED THAT CUBA SHOULD UTILIZE A FRIENDLY NATION AS A GO-BETWEEN IN THE TRANSACTION.

3. THE SENSATIONALIST ULTIMAS NOTICIAS CLAIMS THAT VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA MAY JOINTLY RENEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA FOLLOWING THE INAUGURATION OF COLOMBIA'S PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSON.

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SPECULATION IS BASED ON REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO VENEZUELAN FOREIGN

MINISTER SCHACHT AT A PRESS LUNCHEON ON JUNE 28 WHEN HE PUBLICLY GREETED THE PRESENCE OF A CUBAN NEWSMAN WITH THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: VENEZUELA'S ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS ADDED IMPETUS TO LOCAL SPECULATION REGARDING RELATIONS WITH CUBA. AS DEPT KNOWS, I HAVE GIVEN PERTINENT EXCERPTS OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 TO VENEZUELAN FONMIN.
MCCLINTOCK

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